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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /136 W
---------- 105061
R 151314Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9710
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS BONN 0674

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW

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SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO RISE IN THE

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC

REF: BONN 18105

1. THE UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE IN THE FRG CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE AND IS WORSE THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE 1966-67 RECESSION. IN DECEMBER 485,600 WORKERS, 2.2 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, WERE UNEMPLOYED. THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAS ALSO SHARPLY INCREASED AND WAS 46.3 PERCENT HIGHER IN DECEMBER THAN IN NOVEMBER WHEN 331,839 EMPLOYEES, 1.5 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, WERE OUT OF WORK. THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WORKING FEWER HOURS ALSO INCREASED, REACHING 161,296. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1967 THE UNEMPLOYED OUTNUMBERED JOB OPENINGS WHICH FELL TO 291,909.

2. REPORTS FROM CONSULATES GENERAL AND FIGURES RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SHOW THAT ALL LAENDER ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BUT THAT SOME AREAS ARE SUFFERING MORE THAN OTHERS. THE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK FORCE UNEMPLOYED RANGES FROM 1.0 IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG TO 2.9 IN NIEDERSACHSEN-BREMEN. INDUS-TRIES HARDEST HIT ARE CONSTRUCTION, TEXTILE, LEATHER AND CLOTHINGEMPLOYERS IN THE TEXTILE, CLOTHING, AUTO-MOBILE, METAL AND WOOD INDUSTRIES HAVE RESORTED TO "SHORT TIME" TO KEEP AS MANY WORKERS ON THE PAYROLL AS POSSIBLE.

3. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, JOSEF STINGL, BLAMES RISING UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, THE UNCERTAINTY OVER FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLIES AND THE EARLY ONSET OF WINTER. SOME OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE PREDICTED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT MAY REACH 750,000 IN 1974, BUT THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WOULD NEITHER SUPPORT NOR REJECT THIS PROGNOSIS. HOWEVER, STINGL DOES EXPECT UNEMPLOY-MENT TO CONTINUE TO RISE, AS DO ALL REPORTING CONSULATES GENERAL.HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET ESTIMATES, INVESTMENTS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN00674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740142/aaaabncs.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 18105
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by daviscw>; APPROVED <30 APR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO RISE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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